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the drawal of salaries of all employees in the hospital on monthly pay bills instead of drawing salaries for some of them on contingent bills?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—"The proposal is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether any discrimination is made in regard to service conditions on account of the classifications such as menials, contingent labour and so forth?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—"Those who are employed on the contingent labour basis do not have the same privileges with regard to status and pay as those enjoyed by the permanent people."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"May I know from the Hon. Minister why they are treated as contingent labour when their employment is of a continuous and permanent character and they are paid monthly salaries and regarded as salaried employees?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—"Yes, Sir, it is true, there are those who have served as continuous labour for nearly thirty years and there are others who come under contingent labour. The Government are considering the question of removing the invidious distinctions as between these two classes of people, continuous labour and contingent labour."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister will consider the question of admitting the interim relief of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 which is now denied under present orders, to these contingent labour people?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—"I am not quite sure whether so far as interim relief to all non-gazetted officers is concerned, it will be applicable to the contingent labour; anyway, the suggestion made by the hon. Member will be borne in mind."

Power-houses in Kurnool and Cuddapah.

* 54 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the machinery in the power-houses in Kurnool and Cuddapah broke down recently;

(*b*) whether even the water-supply of the town was affected;

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take not only to set right the existing state of affairs but also to avoid their recurrence;

(*d*) whether it is not desirable that the Government define the policy they propose to adopt towards municipal or other supplies of electricity to ensure regular and uninterrupted supply of power; and

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(e) whether the surcharge now levied on the existing rates of supply is abnormally high, out of all proportion to the conveniences provided?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Water-supply in Cuddapah was affected.

" (c) In order to maintain water-supply in Kurnool in the event of a break down of electric supply, the Government have recently ordered the transfer to Kurnool of the oil engine stationed at Saidapet water-works and its erection at the Kurnool water-works. In the case of Cuddapah, certain proposals have been made by the municipal council for digging some new wells and for carrying out repairs to existing wells. The Government have also under consideration a proposal to instal an additional oil engine unit at the Seshaiah Water-Works, Cuddapah.

" The break down of machinery in power-houses and consequent break down of public supply have been noted mostly in the case of small self-generating licensees, partly due to the inability of the licensees to obtain, at short notice, new plant and spares for existing plant and partly due to the hesitation of the licensees to purchase additional plant at the current high prices. The trouble does not exist where Government generate electricity on a large scale and supply the necessary power to the licensees for distribution. Where the existing or potential load conditions justify it, Government propose to arrange for such large scale generation and to supply energy to the licensees, but where this is not feasible, Government propose to urge the licensee to instal adequate plant with the least possible delay. Where, after giving the licensee a reasonable length of time to improve his supply, he does not do so, Government will take over the undertaking after cancellation of licence. There is great difficulty in getting new plant immediately but what information becomes available to the Government regarding availability of plant, is being passed on to the licensees to enable them to use the same.

" (d) The policy of the Government is already defined in the licence terms under which municipal licensees and other licensees supply electricity. Where the licensee is found incapable of giving a regular and uninterrupted supply due to not taking suitable and feasible steps for the purpose, licences will be cancelled. After cancellation of licence Government will step in and continue the electricity supply. Since Government have generally been doing electricity supply cheaper and better than private licensees, Government have also now adopted the policy of not extending the licence periods or giving additional areas to licensees.

" (e) The surcharge now permitted is very much less than 100 per cent while all commodity prices have gone up by over 100 per cent. It cannot, therefore, be stated that the

existing rates are out of all proportion to the convenience provided. What has happened is that, while the other commodity prices are high all over the country, electricity prices are at almost the pre-war rates over the greater part of the Presidency due to Government's large scale and cheap generation and supply. Therefore, by contrast, in the few areas where surcharges are high, the supply rates seem abnormally so. In all cases, however, Government are taking care to permit no higher rate of surcharge than absolutely necessary.''

Industrial establishments in the Province.

* 55 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present number of Industrial establishments in the Province;

(*b*) what is the number of Industrial establishments subject to inspection under the Factories Act;

(*c*) what is the present strength of the Factory Inspection staff;

(*d*) the number of factories inspected by the Factory Inspection staff during 1945–46;

(*e*) what qualifications and grades of salaries prescribed for the Factory Inspectors are;

(*f*) whether, in view of the specialized and hazardous nature of many industries and the highly technical nature of the processes employed in certain industries, the Government have considered the desirability of recruiting better qualified staff with better emoluments; and

(*g*) whether the Government have also considered the need to revive the special post of the Chief Inspector of Factories?

The Hon. Sri V. V. GIRI :—'' (*a*) The Government have no information.

'' (*b*) Three thousand four hundred and fifty industrial establishments have been registered under the Factories Act up to 1st August 1946. All these are subject to inspection under the Factories Act.

'' (*c*) One Chief Inspector of Factories (Commissioner of Labour), one Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, four Inspectors of Factories, Grade I, seven Inspectors of Factories, Grade II, and one Assistant Inspectress of Factories.

'' (*d*) The number of factories registered under the Factories Act and which were in commission at the end of the year 1945 was 3,122. Of these 2,909 factories were inspected by Inspectors of Factories during the calendar year 1945. The remaining 213 factories were not inspected as some of them were found closed at the time of inspection and a few were registered late in the year.